

the unscripted project

22/23 ANNUAL REPORT

www.unscriptedproject.org





"I loved all the games we played, it helped with my social anxiety... I learned to be kind and have an open mind"

**UNSCRIPTED STUDENT
9TH GRADE**

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Who We Are

Need

Traditional education is not adequately preparing young people with the social-emotional and interpersonal skills necessary for life within and beyond the classroom

Mission

To equip students with the building blocks for personal and professional success through the power of an improv education

Vision

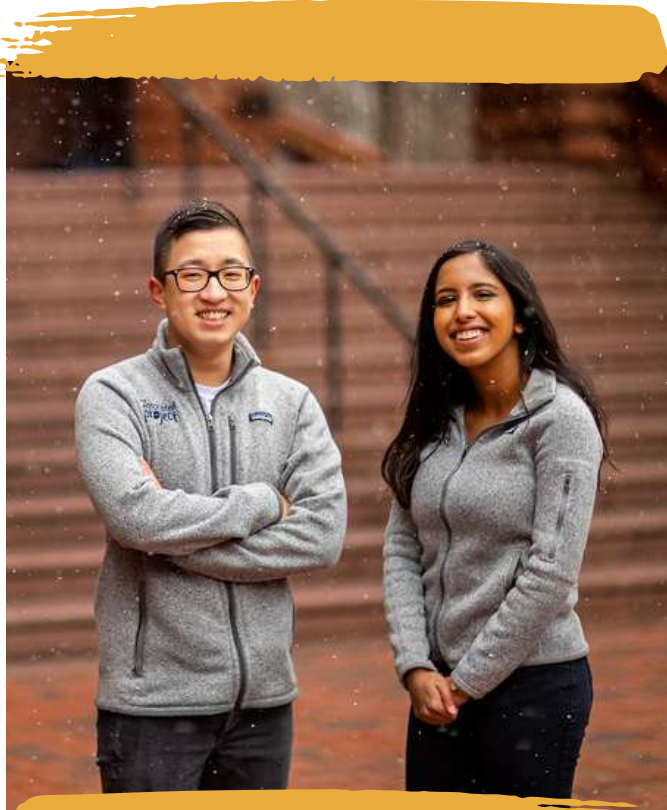
Every child leaves school prepared to embrace challenge, seize opportunity and unlock their own potential

About Us



The Unscripted Project is an award-winning, BIPOC-led Philadelphia-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to equipping students with critical social-emotional and interpersonal skills through the transformative medium of improvisational theater. We do this primarily through our core program, a free 10-week series of in-school applied improv workshops in public middle and high schools. Since our inception in 2020, we have worked with over 1,500 students. Through our workshops, students develop key life skills like speaking confidently, collaborating effectively, and growing from mistakes in a low-stakes and laughter-filled environment.

Letter from the Founders



Happy three years, Unscripted family!

Launched in a challenging pandemic period, we are immensely grateful for how far we have come. Today, we stand proud with a team of 15 strong, we've enriched the lives of over 1,500 students across 87 classrooms; we've prioritized robust impact measurement; we've built out our professional development offerings for teachers, partnered with other nonprofits to offer afterschool and summer programming, and worked with dozens of companies, from Fortune 500s to non-profits, to offer our Improv for Teams workshops to apply the improv mindset in a workplace setting.

Our commitment remains steadfast: to nurture both social-emotional skills and everyday life skills through improv education, sustaining our high standards while investing in our people – staff, students, and communities. Over the years, we have meticulously honed our program, ensuring impactful experiences not only for young people but extending benefits to adults and teachers through our adjacent programming.

As we usher in the fourth year, we are at an exciting inflection point in our growth trajectory. We are gearing up to bolster our infrastructure, diversify revenue streams, and expand our team and board. These strategic moves, underpinned by our growth strategy, will pave the way for sustained expansion - without compromising the essence of what we do. We are looking forward to this upcoming school year, welcoming 25 new classrooms and fostering partnerships old and new.

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support and belief in our mission. Thank you to our mentors, friends, families, for believing in us and the students we serve.

With gratitude,
Philip Chen & Meera Menon

Letter from the Program Director

When I look back at this school year, the phrase that comes to mind is “We made It.” We made it as a program, as educators, and as a community organization. As of this past school year, we have successfully served over 1,500 students and extended our reach outside of the schools by collaborating with external partners on after-school, summer and teaching-facing programming.

The Unscripted Project is officially three years old, which is a big deal for any non-profit organization. As a team, our teaching artists were more confident in our program than ever before. They found their stride and have refined their approach in the classroom. Their confidence in themselves and their ability to deliver our curriculum to students is evident, not just to me but also to our teacher partners.

Our teacher partners are Unscripted champions. They have strong conviction in our team and recognize the positive impact we have on the development of their students. Our students are also Unscripted champions. When I visit schools and see our past students, they are happy to see me, excited to promote us to their peers and eager to share stories on how Unscripted has helped shape their lives.

I know “We made it” is a huge statement to make, but we are three years strong, and we look forward to sharing our journey as we continue to make strides to achieve our goal of having an Unscripted classroom in every Philadelphia public school.

With gratitude,

Karin Potter-Simmons





WOW

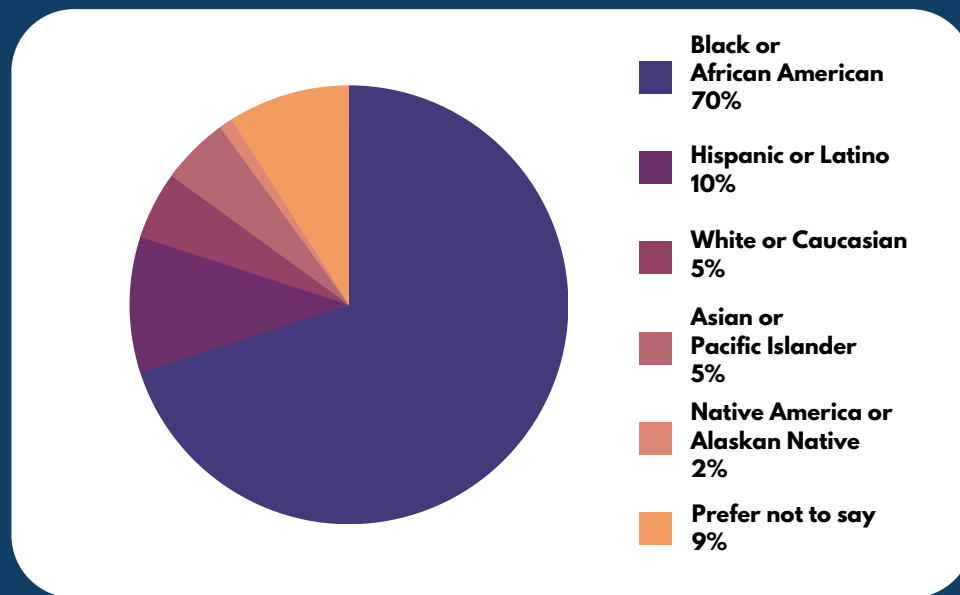
OUR IMPACT



By the Numbers

2022–2023 SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

14 Schools | **36** classrooms | **966** students
400+ hours of improv education



At the schools we work at, the average percentage of students who are classified as “economically disadvantaged” is 90% ⁽¹⁾

Program breakdown:

786 students completed core 10-week program
180 students completed one-time workshops
65 teachers completed our accredited PD course

(1) Based on CEP rates obtained by the School District of Philadelphia which tracks the % of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

By the Numbers

THE IMPROV TOOL KIT IS TRANSFORMATIVE.

79% of students feel like they can better understand their own emotions and the emotions of others

74% of students feel improv class will help them in their everyday life

80% of students feel like they have become a better communicator

67% of students exhibited greater social self-efficacy after the program ⁽¹⁾

77% of students feel more confident participating in class

72% of students would attend more Unscripted workshops

81% of students feel more comfortable with their peers

"Development of SEL skills leads to improved long-term outcomes in educational attainment, employment, and mental health"

Aspen Institute, 2019

(1) Social self-efficacy questionnaire for children (SEQ-C).

By the Stories

Students



"I learned about being more open with my emotions and stepping out of my comfort zone"

-Unscripted Student 9th Grade

"I learned to be bold and brave even when you are scared to do something"

-Unscripted Student 10th Grade

Teaching Artist



"I love teaching for Unscripted because I get to be the adult in the room who tells kids that your ideas are awesome. Improv helps students be less afraid of being wrong or incorrect, instead, we support our youth by helping them realize how full of creative ideas they already are"

-Paul Deichmann, Unscripted Teaching Artist

Classroom Teacher



The Unscripted Project has been a fantastic opportunity to introduce life-changing skills and experiences which has immensely benefited our students. Having an outside partnership for this space allows us to break the routine, introduce new energies, and deepen students understandings of relationships — to themselves, each other, and the world around us.

-Classroom Teacher Partner, Dobbins Technical High School

The background is a vibrant collage of abstract elements. It features thick, expressive brushstrokes in shades of blue, purple, and pink. There are also several organic, blob-like shapes in bright colors like orange, yellow, and green, some of which are decorated with small white dots. The overall style is modern and artistic, with a focus on bold colors and dynamic textures.

YEAR IN REVIEW

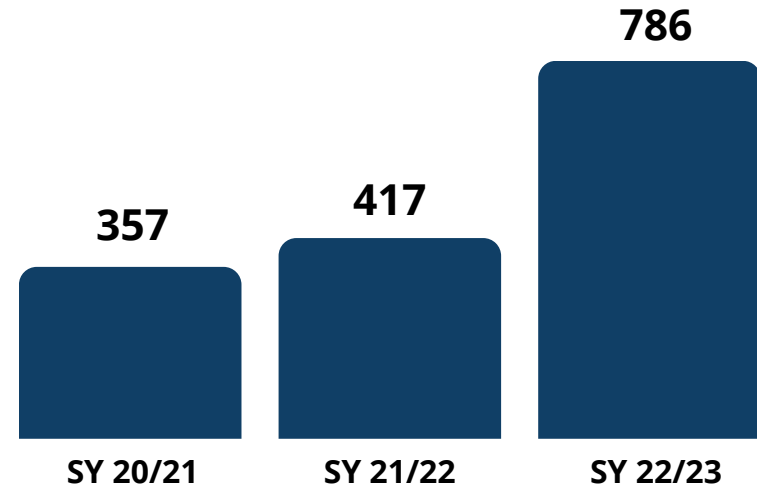
Year in Review

Core Program

we conducted our our core 10-week in-school workshop series for the 3rd year, our most impactful year yet. This year, we were fortunate to work across 12 public middle and high schools in 36 different classrooms. Our innovative curriculum is aligned to state standards and was refined to focus on building communities that support learning recovery and classroom engagement.

The series is taught by professional teaching artists in collaboration with classroom teachers. Using improv, we create a safe and nurturing environment for students to be themselves, make mistakes and grow with their peers. With a specific focus on developing one key life skill each week, our goal is for students to leave equipped with the improv toolkit - a mindset and a skillset that enables and empowers young people to be more adaptable, confident, and collaborative in life within and beyond the classroom.

Students Served Annually



THE UNSCRIPTED ROADMAP:



Year in Review

Professional Development



The Unscripted team offered our Act 48 accredited professional development program to 65 Philadelphia School District teachers this year. In partnership with the Creative Engagement Lab / MakeSPACE project this year, we are focused on supporting art-integration initiatives in the district and providing classroom teachers with the improv toolkit both as a resource for classroom engagement and for continuing to develop as an educator. Many of our professional development participants continue engagement with Unscripted by bringing our programming to their schools and students.

Our accredited professional development course is 4 hours and split into 3 modules: Improv as a Pedagogical Tool, Becoming an Improviser, and Classroom Applications of Improv. Over 150 teachers have now participated in this course with 100% of teachers recommending the program to other teachers and an average rating of 9.8 /10.

In partnership with:

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT LAB



Year in Review

Community Partners



We were thrilled to partner with a number of incredible organizations this year. We collaborated with Mighty Writers on afterschool and summer programming and MakeSPACE Project on teacher professional development; we were chosen by MailChimp + their NFL partners (go Eagles!) as part of their “Give Where You Live” campaign, and continued our collaboration with the Philadelphia School District’s Office of Strategic Partnerships and Office of Arts & Creative Learning on our core program.

Improv for Teams



We are continuing to grow our corporate workshop offering - Improv for Teams! These are interactive, low-stakes workshops consisting of improv exercises, reflections, and applications to the workplace with all proceeds directly funding our school program. Our goal is to equip more people with the powerful toolkit of improv in a collaborative and laughter-filled environment. Clients have included start-ups, top consulting firms, Fortune 500 companies, universities and non-profits.

Annual Fundraiser



Our third annual fundraiser was great success raising over \$54,000 to fund our expansion of our free public school programs. We are immensely grateful to all those who supported us whether by donating or simply spreading the word. We are humbled by the support we have received from everyone and are energized as we continue to build Unscripted and extend our reach and impact.



FINANCIALS & OUR FUTURE



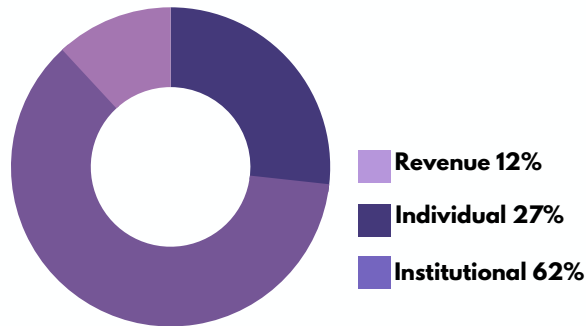
Financials

Revenue FY22/23:
\$215,023

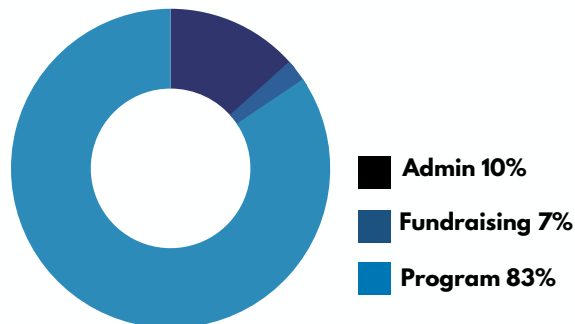
Expenses FY22/23:
\$153,069

Budget FY23/24:
\$220,000

Revenue FY22/23



Expenses FY22/23



Strategic initiatives



Measuring impact

High-quality impact measurement is one of our top priorities and informs our programmatic decisions. We will be dedicating some of our funding to partner with an external evaluator to sharpen our impact framework and depth of evaluation.



Afterschool program

We will be piloting our “Unscripted House Team” afterschool program in Fall of 2023 at one of our partner schools. We anticipate launching this as a standalone program in the Spring of 2024. This will be a free program that all previous Unscripted core program participants can enroll in.



Capacity building

We will spending the year defining a clear strategic roadmap for our organizational growth,. We look forward towards capacity building initiatives including the hiring of another full-time employee and expanding our board.



Established funding model

As we have now passed our 3 year mark and are establishing ourselves as an org, we hope to be able to grow our funding with both existing and new institutional supporters. In addition, we will be focused on building out our Unscripted for Teams revenue streams this year.



TO OUR UNSCRIPTED FAMILY

THANK
YOU



In Gratitude

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Adjunct Professor, Columbia University

Philip Chen

Co-Founder, The Unscripted Project

William Crowley

Senior Director of Marketing, NeuroFlow

Dr. Marcia Ferguson (Board Emeritus)

Senior Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania

Kumud Goyal

Senior Vice President, Genomatica

Meera Menon

Co-Founder, The Unscripted Project

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Francine Odri

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CEO, Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

Stanford Thompson

Founder, Play on Philly

Executive Director, Equity Arc

In Gratitude

School Partners

Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School
Crossroads Academy
Frankford High School
Franklin Learning Center
General Louis Wagner Middle School
KIPP DuBois Collegiate Academy
Murrell Dobbins Technical High School
Northeast High School
Philadelphia Learning Academy North
Science Leadership Academy (Beeber)
Science Leadership Academy (Center City)
Science Leadership Academy (Middle School)
The U School

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John & Paula Crowley
Philip Chen
Sara Chen & Family
Meera Menon
Menon Family
Robert Moore
Stanford Thompson

Friends of Unscripted (\$250-\$999)

Eric Anderson
Rick Andrews
Arakkal Family
Xiang Han Bai
Allan Brown
Jim & Mary Brown
Julie Chen & Richard Bi

In Gratitude

Friends of Unscripted - Cont'd (\$250-\$999)

William Crowley
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Kumud Goyal
Ayushi Gupta
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Isabella Yu

Support Us

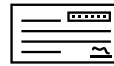
EIN: 85-0844633



Online

give now

Secure & easy. Accepts card, bank transfer, PayPal & Venmo



Mail

To write a check:

The Unscripted Project
3720 Spruce Street, Suite 404
Philadelphia, PA 19104



Matching gifts

Let your company increase your impact. Ask if they have a matching gift program.



Donor advised fund

give now

Link works for Schwab Charitable, Fidelity Charitable, BNY Mellon. For others go directly to your DAF



Corporate Workshops

Upskill your team while supporting Philly students. Learn more on our website or email info@unscriptedproject for a quote



The Unscripted Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided for any contribution. We have a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar (the highest level), which means you can access financial, board, and impact information on our profile [here](#).

Additional ways to support

Connect

Building a strong network of educators, partners, community members and researchers has been critical to our success. We welcome any connections to those who you think might be interested in our work.

Share

As a growing nonprofit, it is important for us to get the word out about who we are and what we do. Share us on your social media and spread the word!

Grow

We are always looking for volunteers and pro-bono support (especially in marketing & web development, non-profit admin and fundraising).



IMPROV TO ME IS...

"being quick on my feet"

"not being afraid
to make mistakes"

"a family"

the unscripted project

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